

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 USPS-02

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PC-10 /180 W

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P 121135Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6246

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7762

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF INDO-PAK TALKS

SUMMARY: ACCORDING MFA, AZIZ AHMED, REPLYING TO SWARAN SINGH'S LETTER, HAS PROPOSED THAT NEXT ROUND OF INDO-PAK TALKS BE HELD IN ISLAMABAD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12. FORMAL TALKS WOULD DEAL WITH ITEMS ON ABORTED JUNE 10 AGENDA, I.E. RESTORATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAVEL FACILITIES, BUT MEETING WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO SIDES TO DEAL INFORMALLY WITH OTHER MATTERS INCLUDING "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE". EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED IN INFORMAL EXCHANGES WILL NOT IMPEDE PROGRESS TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF ITEMS ON PROPOSED FORMAL AGENDA. END SUMMARY.

1. CONFIRMING AND EXPANDING ON REPORTS WHICH WERE HEADLINED IN PAK PRESS AUGUST 11, FMA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS ABDUL SATTAR TOLD POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNSELOR TODAY THAT MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED HAD

SENT REPLY TO INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH ON AUGUST 10 PROPOSING THAT NEXT ROUND OF INDO-PAK TALKS BE HELD IN ISLAMABAD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12. FORMAL TALKS WOULD DEAL WITH RESTORATION OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS AND WITH TRAVEL FACILITIES, I.E., AGENDA OF POSTPONED JUNE 10 DISCUSSIONS, BUT SATTAR SAID THAT BOTH SIDES UNDERSTOOD THAT OTHER MATTERS, INCLUDING "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE", COULD BE DEALT WITH INFORMALLY. ACCORDING SATTAR, LEVEL OF TALKS WOULD DEPEND ON GOI. PAK DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY OFFICIAL (OR MINISTER) OF RANK EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF INDIAN LEADER. SATTAR THOUGHT ON BASIS OF EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH.

2. SATTAR WAS CONFIDENT THAT TALKS ON WHAT HE TERMED "THESE NARROW AND TECHNICAL MATTERS" WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. HE REAFFIRMED THAT GOP HAD ALREADY WORKED UP PROPOSALS FOR BORDER TALKS AND THAT THESE WOULD BE PRESENTED TO GOI IN SEPTEMBER.

A. POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. SATTAR SAID HE THOUGHT THE PRE-1971 ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE EASILY "REHASHED" WITH APPROPRIATE MINOR CHANGES REFLECTING PAKISTAN DEVALUATION AND LOSS OF EAST PAKISTAN.

B. VISAS. THIS WOULD REQUIRE MORE SUBSTANTIAL REVAMPING OF PRE-1971 ARRANGEMENTS SINCE SO MANY OF THE EARLIER CATEGORIES OF VISA APPLICANTS HAD HAD REFERENCE TO MOVEMENT BETWEEN EAST PAKISTAN AND INDIA. HE SAID THAT WHATEVER WAS DECIDED UPON IN THE FORTHCOMING TALKS WOULD BE UNSATISFACTORY TO INDIVIDUAL TRAVELERS SINCE IN THE ABSENCE OF AMY RESIDENT CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE AND CONSEQUENT REQUIREMENT THAT ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI MAKE FINAL DECISION IN EACH VISA CASE NO QUICK AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM COULD BE WORKED UP. ASKED IF HE SAW ANY POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMPTION OF CONSULAR RELATIONS BEFORE RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC ONES SATTAR REPLIED THAT THE GOP

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INTENDED TO MAKE NO FURTHER APPROACHES TO THE INDIANS ON THE QUESTION OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENT OFFICES OF ANY KIND. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THE DAY WAS STILL FAR OFF WHEN "NORMAL" TRAVEL COULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE SUCH TRAVEL WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SPECIAL CATEGORIES, E.G., MEMBERS OF DIVIDED FAMILIES AND PILGRIMS. HE

PROFESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SATISFACTORY GROUP
PILGRIMAGE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE EASILY WORKED
OUT, NOTING THAT THE GOP HAD INFORMED THE GOI
IN OCTOBER 1973 OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT GROUPS
OF SIKH PILGRIMS ON A REGULARIZED BASIS.

3. NOWHERE IN COURSE OF LONG DISCUSSION DID SATTAR
MENTION GOP DESIRE TO USE TALKS AS WAY OF "FINDING OUT
WHAT INDIANS ARE UP TO IN KASHMIR", OBJECTIVE CITED BY
PRIME MINISTER IN HIS AUGUST 4 PRESS CONFERENCE AS IMPORTANT
REASON FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS. PRESUMABLY THIS WILL COME
UP IN THE INFORMAL TALKS BUT OUR IMPRESSION IS
THAT IT AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS WHICH MIGHT BE
RAISED BY ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER WILL NOT IMPEDE PROGRESS
TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF THE ITEMS ON THE PROPOSED FORMAL
AGENDA.BYROADE

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